

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE

The original title "INTERNET CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM" has been replaced with a new title: --ELECTRONIC CREATION, SUBMISSION, ADJUDICATION, AND PAYMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 7, line 20, "time and" has been replaced with --time,--.

At page 7, line 20, "is" has been replaced with --are--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 5 and 9 have been canceled.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 20-22 and 29 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) In a system comprising a health care benefit component that stores patient and benefit information and allows access to stored information by a health care provider, an automated adjudication component that automatically adjudicates claims submitted for payment, an automated payment component that automatically pays adjudicated claims, [and] a payment tracking component that tracks the status of claims submitted for automatic payment, and an access terminal associated with the health care provider, a method for submitting and adjudicating claims comprising the steps of:

accessing, using the access terminal [by a health care provider], the patient and benefit information stored by the health care benefit component such that the health care provider can [in order to] ascertain patient information in preparation for submitting [necessary to submit] a claim for treatment provided to a patient;

creating, using the access terminal [by said health care provider], the [a] claim by entering information regarding treatment provided to said patient into an electronic claim form that can be submitted for payment;

testing [, by said health care provider,] the adjudication status of said claim, so that before said claim is submitted for adjudication [processing], said health care provider may know whether said claim is to be manually adjudicated by an adjudicator [manually] or whether said claim is to be automatically adjudicated [and paid automatically];